



Deer Resistant Plants

UCCE Master Gardeners of the Sierra Foothills



Fact: There are no deer resistant plants. But there are plants that most deer will not eat if there is an abundance of food. Most of the plants listed in this document will not be eaten by deer if there is another choice; however this is not a guarantee they won't at least take a sample now and then.

When selecting plants from this list for your landscape be sure that all of the planting criteria are met: temperature, light, moisture and not just the deer tolerant need. Some of these plants may be more suitable in a meadow or pasture for example, than next to your patio or home. For this information consult your professional nurseryperson or appropriate garden books, or call the Master Gardeners.

Plants native to this area of California are more likely to be deer resistant and many have the added bonus of being drought tolerant. (N) indicates that certain species of this plant are native and (D) signifies non-natives that are drought tolerant.

Annuals

Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila elegans</i>
Balsam.....	<i>Impatiens species</i>
Bells of Ireland	<i>Moluccella laevis</i>
California Poppy (N)	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>
Canterbury Bell	<i>Campanula medium</i>
Cape Forget-Me-Not	<i>Anchusa capensis</i>
Chinese Delphinium aka Candle Delphinium.....	<i>Delphinium grandiflorum</i>
Cockscomb	<i>Celosia cristata</i>
Cosmos.....	<i>Cosmos species</i>
Creeping Zinnia	<i>Sanvitalia procumbrens</i>
Euphorbia.....	<i>Euphorbia species</i>
Floss Flower	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>

Garden Cineraria	<i>Senecio hybridus</i>
Godetia	<i>Clarkia amoena</i>
Love-in-a-Mist	<i>Nigella damascena</i>
Marigold.....	<i>Tagetes species</i>
Mexican Sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>
Mignonette	<i>Reseda odorata</i>
Mountain Phlox aka Prickly Phlox.....	<i>Linanthus grandiflorus</i>
Pincushion Flower	<i>Scabiosa species</i>
Quaking Grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>
Rose Moss	<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>
Shirley Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
Spider Flower	<i>Cleome species</i>
Sweet Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>

Ferns

Maidenhair Fern.....	<i>Adiantum species</i>
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Wood Fern.....	<i>Dryopteris species</i>
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Groundcovers and Vines

Baby's Tears	<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>
Blue Star Creeper	<i>Laurentia fluvialis</i>
Carolina Jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>
Carpet Bugle	<i>Ajuga species</i>
Clematis, (N)	<i>Clematis species (N)</i>
Creeping St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>
Dwarf Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Dwarf Plumbago	<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>
Gold Coin	<i>Asteriscus maritimus</i>
Japanese Spurge	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>
Kenilworth Ivy	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>
Moss Pink.....	<i>Phlox sublata</i>

Raoulia	<i>Raoulia australis</i>
Red Trumpet Vine	<i>Distictis buccinatoria</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>
Wisteria (D)	<i>Wisteria species (D)</i>
Silver Lace Vine	<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i>
Creeping Thyme, Wooley Thyme,	
Lemon Thyme, Common Thyme.....	<i>Thymus species</i>
Trumpet Creeper aka Trumpet Vine.....	<i>Campsis species</i>
Australian Bluebell Creeper	<i>Sollya heterophylla</i>
Black-Eyed Susan Vine	<i>Thunbergia alata</i>
Sweet Woodruff.....	<i>Galium odoratum</i>

Perennials, Bulbs and Grasses

African Corn Lily	<i>Ixia species</i>
African Daisy	<i>Arctotis species</i>
Arum	<i>Arum species</i>
Aster (N).....	<i>Aster alpinus</i>
Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>
Basket-of-Gold	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>
Beach Strawberry, Sand Strawberry....	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>
Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon species</i>
Bear's Breech.....	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda species</i>

Bergenia	<i>Bergenia species</i>
Blanket Flower (D)	<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>
Bleeding Heart (N)	<i>Dicentra (N)</i>
Blue Marguerite	<i>Felicia amelloides</i>
Blue Oat Grass	<i>Helichtotrichon sempervirens</i>
Blue Star Creeper	<i>Pratia pedunculata</i>
Bluebell	<i>Scilla species</i>
Blue-eyed Grass (N)	<i>Sisyrinchium idahoense bellum</i>
Bowles' Golden Grass	<i>Milium effusum 'Aureum'</i>
Brodiaea (N).....	<i>Brodiaea species</i>

Perennials, Bulbs and Grasses, continued

Bugle Lily.....	<i>Watsonia species</i>	Lobelia	<i>Lobelia species</i>
Bulbous Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum</i>	Madagascar Periwinkle.....	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>
Calla	<i>Zantedeschia hybrids</i>	Marguerite aka Paris Daisy	<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i>
Candle Larkspur aka Scarlet Larkspur	<i>Delphinium x belladonna, Delphinium cardinale, Delphinium elatum, Delphinium nudicaule</i>	Marigold	<i>Tagetes species</i>
Candy tuft	<i>Iberis species</i>	Marjoram, Oregano	<i>Origanum species</i>
Canna.....	<i>Canna species</i>	Matilija Poppy.....	<i>Romneya coulteri</i>
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Mexican Daisy.....	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>
Century Plant	<i>Agave americana</i>	Mint	<i>Mentha species</i>
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobilis</i>	Moneywort.....	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>
Clarkia (N)	<i>Clarkia species (N)</i>	Monkey Flower (N).....	<i>Mimulus species</i>
Common Aubrieta	<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Monkshood (N).....	<i>Aconitum species</i>
Coral Bells aka Alum Root.....	<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>	Moor Grass aka Purple Moor Grass	<i>Molina caerulea altissima 'Variegata'</i>
Coreopsis (D)	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Naked Lady (D)	<i>Amaryllis belladonna</i>
Cranesbill	<i>Erodium reichardii</i>	New Zealand Flax.....	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium species</i>	Oriental Poppy.....	<i>Papaver orientale</i>
Crinum	<i>Crinum species</i>	Ornamental Rhubarb.....	<i>Rheum</i>
Crocosmia	<i>Crocosmia species</i>	Peony	<i>Paeonia species</i>
Crocus	<i>Crocus species</i>	Peruvian Lily	<i>Alstromeria species</i>
Crown Pink, Rose Campion.....	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	Pot Marigold	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>
Cushion Pink	<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Potato Vine.....	<i>Solanum laxum</i>
Cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen species</i>	Prairie Cord Grass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
Daffodil (D)	<i>Narcissus species</i>	Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia species</i>	Quaking Grass aka Rattlesnake Grass	<i>Briza media</i>
Daylily (D)	<i>Hemerocallis species</i>	Redhot Poker (D)	<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>
Dead Nettle.....	<i>Lamium species</i>	Ribbon Grass aka Gardener's Garters	<i>Phalaris arundinacea picta</i>
English Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Rockcress	<i>Arabis species</i>
Eulalia Grass	<i>Misanthus sinensis</i>	Rue aka Herb-of-Grace	<i>Ruta graveolens</i>
Euphorbia	<i>Euphorbia species</i>	Santolina (D)	<i>Santolina species (D)</i>
Evening Primrose aka Sundrops	<i>Oenothera species</i>	Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga species</i>
False Spiraea	<i>Astilbe species</i>	Scarlet Larkspur (N)	<i>Delphinium cardinal (D. nudicaule)</i>
Feather Grass, Needle Grass (N)	<i>Stipa species</i>	Sea Lavender, Statice.....	<i>Limonium species</i>
Fescue (N)	<i>Festuca species</i>	Sea Oats aka Bamboo Grass	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>
Floss Flower	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Sedge	<i>Carex species</i>
Forget-Me-Not.....	<i>Myosotis species</i>	Serbian Bellflower	<i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>
Fortnight Lily.....	<i>Dites iridioides (D. vegeta)</i>	Shasta Daisy.....	<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>
Fountain Grass.....	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	Snow in Summer (D).....	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>
Four O'Clock	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Soft Rush.....	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Foxglove (N)	<i>Digitalis species</i>	Solomon's Seal.....	<i>Polygonatum species</i>
Freesia	<i>Freesia species</i>	Speedwell	<i>Veronica species</i>
Fringe Cup.....	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Spider Lily	<i>Lycoris squamigera</i>
Garden Heliotrope.....	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>
Giant Snowdrop.....	<i>Galanthus elwesii</i>	Stonecrop	<i>Sedum species</i>
Gloriosa Daisy, Black-Eyed Susan (D)....	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>
Grape Hyacinth.....	<i>Muscari species</i>	Summer Snowflake.....	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>
Harlequin Flower	<i>Sparaxis tricolor</i>	Swan River Daisy	<i>Brachyscome species</i>
Hellebore	<i>Helleborus species</i>	Sweet Violet.....	<i>Viola odorata</i>
Hollyhock.....	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
Iceland Poppy	<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>	Thrift	<i>Armeria species</i>
Indian Mock Strawberry	<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Thyme (D)	<i>Thymus species</i>
Iris (D)	<i>Iris species</i>	Transvaal Daisy	<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>
Irish Moss aka Scotch Moss	<i>Sagina subulata</i>	Tuberous Begonia.....	<i>Begonia tuberhybrida</i>
Japanese Anemone	<i>Anemone japonica</i>	Tufted Hair Grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Japanese Sweet Flag	<i>Acorus gramineus 'Variegatus'</i>	Umbrella Plant.....	<i>Cyperus alternifolius</i>
Jupiter's Beard, Red Valerian (D)	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Verbena (D)	<i>Verbena species</i>
Lamb's Ears (D)	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Wake Robin (N).....	<i>Trillium chloropetalum</i>
Lily Turf	<i>Liriope species</i>	Wallflower	<i>Erysimum species</i>
Lily-of-the-Nile (D)	<i>Agapanthus species</i>	Western Columbine (N)	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
Lithodora	<i>Lithodora diffusa</i>	Western Hound's Tongue aka Grand Hound's Tongue.....	<i>Cynoglossum grande</i>

Perennials, Bulbs and Grasses, continued

White Cup Flower.....	<i>Nierembergia repens</i>
Yarrow (N)	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yellow Foxtail Grass	<i>Alopecurus pratensis 'Aureus'</i>

Yerba Buena	<i>Satureja douglasii</i>
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia species</i>

Shrubs

Alpine Totara.....	<i>Podocarpus nivalis</i>
Artemisia (D)	<i>Artemisia species</i>
Barberry	<i>Berberis species</i>
Bayberry.....	<i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>
Beauty Bush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>
Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon species</i>
Boxwood	<i>Buxus species</i>
Braziliann Flame Bush	
aka Trinidad Flame Bush.....	<i>Calliandra tweedii</i>
Breath of Heaven (White)	
(Pink aka Pink Diosma)	<i>Coleonema species</i>
Bridal Wreath aka Mountain Spirea	
aka Western Spirea	<i>Spiraea species</i>
Bright Bead Cotoneaster.....	<i>Cotoneaster buxifolius</i>
Bush Anemone (N)	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>
Bush Morning Glory	<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>
Bush Poppy (D).....	<i>Dendromecon rigida</i>
Butcher's Broom	<i>Ruscus species</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
California Fuchsia (N)	<i>Epilobium californica</i>
(aka Hummingbird Flower)	aka <i>Zauschneria canum</i>
Cape Honeysuckle.....	<i>Tecoma capensis</i>
Cape Plumbago	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>
Ceanothus, Island Ceanothus (N)	<i>Ceanothus species (N)</i>
Chinese lantern	<i>Abutilon hybrids</i>
Chinese Snowball aka Laurustinus	<i>Viburnum species</i>
Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla species</i>
Coast Rosemary	<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>
Coast Silktassel.....	<i>Garrya elliptica</i>
Common lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Common Snowberry (N)	<i>Symporicarpos albus</i>
Corokia cotoneaster.....	<i>Corokia cotoneaster</i>
Currant or Gooseberry (N).....	<i>Ribes species</i>
Daphne.....	<i>Daphne species</i>
Dusty Miller (D)	<i>Senecio cineraria</i>
Dwarf Coyote Brush (N)	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Elderberry (N)	<i>Sambucus species</i>
Escallonia	<i>Escallonia species</i>
Euphorbia.....	<i>Euphorbia species</i>
Euryops	<i>Euryops pectinatus</i>
Evergreen Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>
Fatshedera	<i>X Fatshedera lizei</i>
Ferns (N).....	(except <i>Pellaea</i>) (N)
Flannel Bush (N)	<i>Fremontodendron species</i>
Flowering Quince	<i>Chaenomeles spp</i>
Germaner	<i>Teucrium species</i>
Glossy Abelia.....	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>
Grevillea	<i>Grevillea species</i>
Griselinia	<i>Griselinia lucida</i>
Halimium	<i>Halimium species</i>
Heath	<i>Erica species</i>
Heavenly Bamboo (D)	<i>Nandina domestica</i>
Holly	Ilex species
Honey Bush	<i>Melianthus major</i>
Japanese Aralia	<i>Fatsia japonica</i>

Japanese Rose	<i>Kerria japonica</i>
Jasmine	<i>Jasminium species</i>
Jerusalem Sage.....	<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>
Juniper (D)	<i>Juniperus species</i>
Korean Forsythia	<i>Forsythia ovata</i>
Lavender (D)	<i>Lavandula species</i>
Lions Tail	<i>Leonotis leonurus</i>
Loropetalum.....	<i>Loropetalum chinense</i>
Lupine (N)	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>
Manzanita (N)	<i>Arctostaphylos species</i>
Mexican Fire Bush	<i>Kochia scoparia trichophylla</i>
Mexican Orange.....	<i>Choisya ternata</i>
Mountain Pieris aka Chinese Pieris	
aka Lily-of-the Valley Shrub	
aka Japanese Andromeda	<i>Pieris species</i>
Myoporum	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>
Nolina	<i>Nolina parryi</i>
Oregon Grape (N).....	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>
Oregon Grape (N).....	<i>Mahonia species</i>
Osmanthus	<i>Osmanthus species</i>
Parrot Beak	<i>Clianthus puniceus</i>
Pineapple Guava (D)	<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>
Pyracantha (D) aka Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha species</i>
Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>
Redwood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregana</i>
Rhododendron.....	Rhododendron species (except Azaleas)
Rockrose.....	<i>Cistus species</i>
Rosemary (D)	<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>
Sage (D)	<i>Salvia species</i>
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>
Santolina	<i>Santolina species</i>
Senna	<i>Cassia species</i>
Shining Sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>
Siberian Peashrub	<i>Caragana arborescens</i>
Silverberry	<i>Elaeagnus pungens, Elaeagnus commutata</i>
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>
Spice Bush (N)	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>
Spine Shrub	<i>Adolphia californica (rare)</i>
Star Jasmine aka Confederate Jasmine.	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>
Sugar Bush	<i>Rhus ovata</i>
Sunrose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>
Sweet Box	<i>Sarcococca species</i>
Sweet Hakea	<i>Hakea suaveolens</i>
Sweet Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>
Toyon (N)	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>
Trailing Lantana.....	<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavatera species</i>
True Myrtle	<i>Myrtus communis</i>
Wild Buckwheat (N)	<i>Eriogonum species except E. fasciculatum polifolium</i>

Trees

Acacia.....*Acacia species*
American Persimmon*Diospyros virginiana*
American Sweet Gum*Liquidambar styraciflua*
Araucaria.....*Araucaria species*
Arborvitae*Thuja species*
Ash (N)*Fraxinus species*
Bigleaf Maple*Acer macrophyllum*
Black Locust (D)*Robinia pseudocacia*
Black Walnut.....*Juglans nigra*
Box Elder.....*Acer negundo*
Cajeput Tree, Paperbark Tree.....*Melaleuca quinquenervia*
California Bay (N)*Umbellularia californica*
California Buckeye (N)*Aesculus californica*
California Nutmeg (N)*Torreya californica*
California Pepper Tree.....*Schinus molle*
California Sycamore (N)*Platanus racemosa*
Carob*Ceratonia siliqua*
Carolina Laurel Cherry*Prunus caroliniana*
Catalpa*Catalpa bignonioides*
Cedar (D)*Cedrus species*
Chinaberry*Melia azedarach*
Coast Redwood (N)*Sequoia sempervirens*
Cypress (D).....*Cupressus species*
Dogwood (N).....*Cornus species*
Douglas Fir (N)*Pseudotsuga species*
Empress Tree*Paulownia tomentosa*
Eucalyptus.....*Eucalyptus species*
European larch*Larix decidua*
European Mountain Ash.....*Sorbus aucuparia*
False Cypress (D).....*Chamaecyparis species*
Fan Palm*Chamaerops humilis*
Fig, Edible.....*Fig carica*
Fir (N)*Abies species*
Giant Sequoia*Sequoiadendron giganteum*
Gum Myrtle.....*Angophora costata*
Hackberry (D).....*Celtis species*

Hawthorn (N)*Crataegus species*
Hazelnut (N)*Corylus cornuta californica*
Hemlock (N).....*Tsuga species*
Hercules' Club aka Devil's Walking Stick *Aralia spinosa*
Holly*Ilex species*
Incense Cedar (N)*Calocedrus decurrens*
Italian Alder*Alnus cordata*
Japanese Cryptomeria.....*Cryptomeria japonica*
Japanese Maple.....*Acer palmatum*
Juniper (N).....*Juniperus species*
Kentucky Coffee Tree*Gymnocladus dioica*
Madrone (N).....*Arbutus menziesii*
Magnolia*Magnolia species*
Mayten Tree.....*Maytenus boaria*
Oak (N)*Quercus species*
Olive*Olea europaea*
Peppermint Tree*Agonis flexuosa*
Pine (N).....*Pinus species*
She-Oak, Beefwood*Casuarina species*
Silk Tree aka Mimosa*Albizia*
Smoke Tree*Cotinus coggygria*
Soapbark Tree*Quillaja saponaria*
Spanish Bayonet*Yucca aloifolia*
Spruce*Picea species*
Sweet Bay, Grecian Laurel (D)*Laurus nobilis*
Tanbark Oak (N)*Lithocarpus densiflorus*
True Myrtle*Myrtus communis*
Variegated Box Elder.....*Acer negundo variegatum*
Vine Maple*Acer circinatum*
Washington Palm (D)*Washingtonia species*
Western Redbud (N)*Cercis occidentalis*
Windmill Palm.....*Trachycarpus fortunei*
Windmill Palm.....*Trochycarpus fortunei*
Yew*Taxus species*
Yew Pine.....*Podocarpus macrophyllus*

This brochure was compiled by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County, Spring 1997 updated Fall 2012 and again in Spring 2017. The brochure was then merged with the "Deer-Resistant Plants for the Sierra Foothills (Zone 7) compiled by UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Nevada County. The latter was edited by Cindy Fake, Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor, Placer and Nevada Counties. The UCCE El Dorado, Nevada and Placer County Master Gardeners volunteer organizations under the direction of the University of California Cooperative Extension. Recommendations are based on local experience and from the following sources: Deer Resistant Plants, Gardener's Guide to Preventing Deer Damage, Dept. of Fish & Game, State of California; Cal-Flora, and Sunset Western Garden Book, Lane Publishing Co.

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